

In politics he was a Jacksonian democrat. "Old Hickory" never had a more loyal admirer and adherent, or Thomas Ritchie of the Richmond Enquirer, a more attentive reader.

For a number of years he was a professing Christian, and his end was peaceful and hopeful. He and his devoted wife were not long separated in their decease, which occurred but a few years since. He died October 30, 1890. Mrs Gay was a very superior person, and the writer cherishes her kindness to him as among the most pleasant memories of his early life. Beauty is vain and favor deceitful, but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

She survived her noble husband but a few fleeting months. Her decease was sudden but very safe. Their bodies repose in the Gibson grave yard, and their graves indicated by beautiful monuments placed there by their dutiful children.

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### WILLIAM POAGE.

The Poage relationship claims a place in the annals of our county, and some attention will be given to them in this sketch.

The Poages are of pure Scotch-Irish ancestry. The line of descent can be traced to two brothers, Robert and John Poage, who "proved their importation at their own charges," at Orange Courthouse, 1740. The Pocahontas Poages are the descendants of Robert Poage, who settled between Staunton and Fort Defiance, and was among the first to occupy that attractive

portion of the famous Valley of Virginia. His wife was Elizabeth Preston, whose family settled in the vicinity of Waynesboro with the pioneers about 1740. Their son John married Mary Blair and settled near the Poage homestead in Augusta County.

William Poage, one of John Poage's sons, married Margaret Davies and settled in the Little Levels about 1782, at the place where Charles W. Beard now resides. Mrs Poage died in 1843, aged 98 years. Their children were William, George Washington, Moses Hoge, Samuel Davies, and Elizabeth.

William Poage, Junior, married the widow Nancy Gatewood, a daughter of Major Jacob Warwick, and lived at Marlin's Bottom. Their daughter Rachel was married to Josiah Beard, of Locust.

Mary Vance Poage was married first to Robert Beale, and settled on Elk, where he died, leaving one daughter, Margaret Elizabeth Beale. There was another child that died at the age of a few months. When it was buried the father walked around the grave and then looking upward with his tearful eyes said: "Our God in heaven only knows who will be the next to be buried here; it may be myself." Four weeks from that day he too was carried there and buried.

Mrs Mary Beale was married the second time, to Henry M. Moffett, clerk of the county, and lived first at Huntersville, and then at the Levels. Margaret Beale, her eldest daughter, became the wife of Dr G. B. Moffett. Their sons Robert and James Moffett live in St. Louis and Chicago, employed in the Standard Oil business. Sally Moffett became Mrs Alexander

McChesney, late of Charleston, W. Va. Martha Moffett is now Mrs Hall, of Philippi, Barbour County. Mary Evelina was the late Mrs William P. Thompson, of New York. Rachel Moffett is now Mrs Robert McChesney, of Lewisburg. George H. Moffett became a lawyer, speaker of the West Virginia legislature, and distinguished editor. He resides at Parkersburg.

Colonel William Woods Poage, son of Major William Poage, married Julia Callison of Locust, and settled on the homestead, finally moved to Poages Lane, where his sons John Robert and Quincy W. Poage now reside.

Margaret Davies Poage was married to the late Jas. A. Price.

Moses Hoge Poage, son of William Poage, the Levels settler, married Martha McDannald, of Windy Cove, Bath County, and settled on the place now held by Alvin Clark. Their sons and daughters were William, Franklin, Cyrus, Davis, Elizabeth, who became Mrs George Van Eman, a Presbyterian minister; and Mary Poage, who became Mrs Hanna. Late in life Moses Poage emigrated to Missouri.

George Washington Poage married Miss Rankin and settled on the place now occupied by Preston Clark. The children of the first marriage were William, who was killed by a falling tree; Rankin, who married Nancy Wolfenbarger, and settled where the late Rev M. D. Dunlap resided. He finally went west. James R. Poage, late of Edray. Mrs Ann Wanless, wife of Ralph Wanless in the Hills. Mrs Elizabeth Burner second wife of the late George Burner of Trav-

elers Repose.

George W. Poage's second wife was Elizabeth Beard, sister of Josiah Beard. The children of the second family were George Washington Poage, Jr., Samuel Davies Poage, John B. Poage, and Elizabeth Poage, who became Mrs William P. Hill.

George W. Poage was a person of fine appearance, and his resemblance to the portraits of Washington—of whom he was a namesake—was frequently remarked upon. An evergreen prayer meeting was conducted at his house on silent Sabbaths. He loved to “wail with judicious care” the hymns and tunes that were sung by the Covenanting ancestry in Scotland. While there was much singing and much reading and much praying, but few things were sung, read, and prayed, and so the minds of the worshippers were concentrated on the few things needful—the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus, a new heart and a right spirit. Advanced in years, Mr Poage went west with his family and settled in Missouri.

Samuel Davies Poage, youngest son of William Poage, Senior, married Miss Rebecca Arbuckle, of Lewisburg, sister of Captain Charles Arbuckle of Texas and lived at the old homestead. He had been educated for the Presbyterian ministry, but declined the exercise of its duties through a morbid sense of unworthiness, unfitness for assuming duties so sacred and responsible as he regarded Ministerial vows demanded. He was a faithful helper in the prayer meetings led by his brother George Poage. While attending school taught by Rev Joseph Brown at the Brick Church, the

writer boarded in Mr Poage's family. He has heard him in secret prayer in his private room long after midnight, such were his devotional habits. It mattered not how cold the night might be, Mr Poage would spend hours in that room in secret devotions, and oftentimes he would come out with his features all radiant with ecstatic emotion.

Elizabeth Poage, daughter of William Poage, Sr., became the wife of Colonel John Hill, son of Richard Hill, so often mentioned in these biographic notes as a pioneer and scout.

Colonel Hill, late in life, felt it his duty to remove west. It was one of the most mournful episodes that ever occurred in the social history of the Levels when Moses Poage, George Poage, and Colonel Hill set out for the west with their families in order to seek new homes in their old age. The most of these persons located in Davies County, Missouri, and many of their descendants are in that State, which has been to so large extent occupied by Virginia people as to be regarded as a new Virginia.

William Poage, Senior, was a Presbyterian ruling elder, and virtually the founder of the Oak Grove church. Some of the first meetings conducted by Presbyterian ministers in this region were at his house. When the pulpit would be vacant years at a time there would be religious meetings at his home or the homes of his sons, who were also elders.

Visiting friends from Kentucky brought with them the revival spirit that has rendered the early history of Kentucky so famous, and it broke out in the Levels in

1801. Parties in Augusta heard of it, and came over to see and hear what it all meant.

The pastor of the Old Stone Church, Rev William Wilson, a relative of the Poages, and fifteen or twenty of the young people, also relatives, came over together. They became imbued with the spirit of the moment, and went back singing and praying as they traveled along. The effect upon the home people in the valley as they rode up singing and praying was overwhelming, and from that point—the Old Stone church—the revival influence went all over the State, wherever there were Presbyterian congregations, and the results are visible at the present time. So it appears that a great matter was kindled by a little watch fire that had been kindled in the old Poage homestead.

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### WILLIAM SHARP.

One of the most substantial and prosperous citizens of our county in its formative period was the late William Sharp, near Verdant Valley. He was the son of William Sharp, Senior, who settled near Huntersville. He had scarcely attained his majority when he and Elizabeth Waddell were married at Alexander Waddell's. This worthy couple at once settled in the woods and opened up a fine estate out of a forest noted for the tremendous size of its walnut, red oak, and sugar maple trees, and reared a worthy family. In reference to their sons and daughters the following particulars have been mainly learned from his daughter, Mrs Martha Dilley, near Dilleys Mill.